

CROATIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL LABEL

Introduction

Croatia's Environmental Labeling program was established to "stimulate the development of new technologies, the production and consumption of environmentally friendly products, the reduction of environmental pollution, and rational resource and energy management." The program is also intended to provide consumers with a guide to make the "best choice" in terms of environmental protection. Run by the State Directorate for Environment in Croatia, the program is positive and voluntary.

To date, Croatia's program has developed criteria for 33 product categories, and the Label has been awarded to products in 15 of these categories.

Program Summary

Croatia's Environmental Labeling program is administered by the State Directorate for Environment and is run by an expert institution. An appointed Jury, however, makes all decisions regarding the Label. The Jury is appointed by the Director of the State Directorate for Environment, and is composed of five members, including representatives from the State Directorate for Environment, the State Bureau for Standardization and Metrology, industry, trade groups, experts in environmental protection, and non-governmental environmental associations. Each Jury member serves for two years.

The Jury selects product categories that have some adverse effect on the environment. Manufacturers can propose product categories.

Product criteria are established by the expert institution for each product category. Criteria take into consideration all stages of the product's life cycle and all possible negative impacts during every stage of a product's life, from its production to its disposal. In particular, criteria are developed so that awards can be given to products:

- that endanger the environment to a lesser extent than other equivalent products,
- that can be reused,
- that contain replaceable parts,
- that reduce harmful emissions to the environment during their use, and
- whose manufacturer uses natural resources reasonably.

The development process involves the participation of experts and public stakeholders. The Jury makes the final decision on selecting product criteria. The product criteria are valid for a specific period of time that is determined for each set of criteria. At the end of the period, the Jury reviews

the criteria and determines whether the criteria are obsolete, or if they can be extended without revision.

Manufacturers of consumer goods submit applications to the State Directorate for Environment. It is the Jury's decision as to whether to forward the application to the expert institution. The expert institution conducts an audit, before and during which the following are collected or performed: product quality certificate; list of raw materials; description of the technical process; description of technological modifications; power supply improvements; choice of raw materials; comparison between the product and similar products in the Croatian market; water resource permit and waste water quantitative analysis; analysis of the product's impact on water regarding, among other things, biodegradability; outcome of examining the working environment and equipment; description of waste disposal methods; and air quality impact assessment. From the information collected during the audit, the expert institution then issues an opinion on whether or not to award the Environmental Label. The Jury evaluates the information collected during the audit to determine whether or not the product is in line with the product criteria and valid regulations and standards. The Jury makes the final decision on awarding the Label.

References

Preradović, Nevenka. State Directorate for Environment, Republic of Croatia. Personal communication with Abt Associates. Summer 1997.

State Directorate for Environment, Republic of Croatia. *Environmental Label of the Republic of Croatia*. Summer 1997.

State Directorate for Environment, Republic of Croatia. *List of Product Categories for Which the Specific Criteria are Available*. Summer 1997.

State Directorate for Environment, Republic of Croatia. *Specific Criteria for Product Groups for the Environmental Label of the Republic of Croatia*. Summer 1997.

Product Categories

Final Categories

- Returnable paper packaging
- Returnable glass packaging
- Returnable plastic packaging
- Returnable plastic containers
- Returnable metal packaging
- Waste paper collection
- Waste glass collection
- Waste plastic collection
- Waste metal collection

Waste rubber collection
Waste oil collection
Scrap paper products
Scrap glass products
Scrap plastic products
Scrap rubber products
Scrap wood products
Carbon dioxide (CO₂) from fermentation waste
Asbestos-free clutch linings
Asbestos-free brake linings
Matches free from toxic substances
Fire lighting material free from hazardous substances
Emulsifiers and dispersers of oil spills on water, free from hazardous substances
Hygienic litter for pets free from hazardous substances
Funeral equipment free from harmful substances
Retreaded tires
Reusable ribbon cassettes
Recovered toner cartridges
Water dispersive polymeric coatings
Water-based adhesives
Lubricating oil for motor saw chains
Linen towel on the rail
Paper products for packaging
Detergents

